United Nations S/2018/983

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 November 2018
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 31 October 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

We have sent you dozens of letters previously regarding the savage crimes that the "international coalition" led by the United States of America has committed against innocent Syrian civilians, the systematic attacks by that coalition against the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and its systematic use of internationally prohibited weapons, including white phosphorus bombs, to bombard residential neighbourhoods in Raqqah, Dayr al-Zawr, Aleppo and Hasakah Governorates. In those letters, we called upon the Security Council to take immediate action to stop these crimes and prevent their recurrence.

In that connection, I should like to draw your attention to some painful news concerning the recent discovery of several mass graves in Raqqah city. The bodies of more than 4,000 martyrs, mostly women, children and elderly persons, were discovered under the rubble created by the international coalition's bombardment of the city of Raqqah, in particular the areas of Hadiqah al-Bayda', Rashid Stadium and the zoo. Another mass grave that holds the remains of 2,500 women, children and elderly persons was discovered in agricultural land next to the Children's Hospital and the National Hospital, while another mass grave that holds the remains of 1,200 civilians who were killed when the international coalition bombarded Raqqah city last year was discovered yesterday in the Panorama area.

Although only two per cent of the rubble of what the criminal coalition destroyed in Raqqah city has been cleared, the tragic discovery of those mass graves confirms the veracity of the information that we have conveyed to you repeatedly regarding the bloody massacres that the international coalition has perpetrated against the Syrian people, especially in Raqqah city. The coalition levelled that city to the ground after it had evacuated the terrorists of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant organization, for whose safety the coalition was concerned, and transferred them to Dayr al-Zawr Governorate to fight the Syrian Arab Army and finish carrying out the coalition's plan to undermine, in cooperation with allied militias, the unity and sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns the attacks, war crimes and crimes against humanity that the so-called international coalition has been committing against Syrian civilians and condemns the failure by certain States member of that coalition to disassociate themselves from the coalition and the crimes that it is committing in their names. The Syrian Arab Republic expresses its regret at and protests the silence of certain States and international actors and their decision to

Please recycle

ignore the killing of the civilian inhabitants of Raqqah city and the city's complete destruction.

The Government Syrian Arab Republic once again calls upon the Security Council to shoulder its responsibility to maintain international peace and security and take immediate action to stop the crimes being committed by the coalition against the Syrian people and prevent their recurrence. The Government also calls upon the Council to conduct an international investigation into the crimes and mass killings that occurred in Raqqah city, and reiterates its call upon the Council to end the hostile and illegal presence in Syrian territory of United States forces and other foreign forces and to stop them from implementing their hostile schemes to undermine the unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bashar **Ja'afari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative